

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09945 222146Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5487

S E C R E T CAIRO 9945

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DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR:

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AEMR US LE

SUBJ: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT SADAT TO PRESIDENT FORD RE
BEIRUT EVACUATION

REF: (A) STATE 181222 (B) CAIRO 9876 (C) CAIRO 9892

1. AT 2300 LOCAL FAHMY'S CHEF DE CABINET, USAMA AL-BAZ, CAME
BY THE RESIDENCE TO DELIVER PRESIDENT SADAT'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT
FORD'S LETTER ON THE BEIRUT EVACUATION (REF A). TEXT
OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S LETTER, DATED JULY 22, FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER, DATED JULY 22, IN WHICH YOU
INFORMED ME OF THE WAY THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE REACTED TO
YOUR EMBASSY'S REQUEST IN CONNECTION WITH THE EVACUATION
OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM BEIRUT. AS YOU WELL KNOW,
I CONSIDER THIS SUBJECT A MATTER WHICH DESERVES ATTENTION,
FOR I AM QUITE AWARE OF ITS SENSITIVE NATURE. YOUR INTEREST
IN PURSUING IT IN FULL DETAIL IS MATCHED BY MY EARNEST DESIRE
TO SEE IT HANDLED IN A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT UPON RECEIVING YOUR LETTER, I
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SENT AN URGENT MESSAGE TO THE PLO LEADERS URGING THEM IN THE

MOST UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS TO RESPOND TO YOUR REQUEST FAVORABLY.

I BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL BE COOPERATIVE WITH YOUR
EMBASSY STAFF AS THEY HAVE BEEN IN SIMILAR CASES IN THE PAST.

ALTHOUGH I PREFER TO RESERVE JUDGMENT ON THE MATTER
UNTIL I RECEIVE THE NECESSARY CLARIFICATIONS, MY INITIAL INCLINA-
TION IS TO DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PALESTINIANS ARE
HOLDING YOUR NATIONALS AS HOSTAGES FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.
THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO IN THE PAST AND THERE IS NO REASON
WHY THEY SHOULD CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE NOW. YOU MIGHT AGREE
WITH ME THAT THEY HAVE HANDLED THIS SUBJECT WITH COMPASSION, UNDER-
STANDING AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

AT ANY RATE, YOU MAY REST ASSURED THAT MY MESSAGE
TO ARAFAT AND HIS COLLEAGUES WAS VERY CLEAR AND I HAVE EVERY
REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE FRUITFUL. I SENT THAT MESSAGE
URGENTLY, IN THE SAME SPIRIT THAT PROMPTED YOU TO WRITE TO ME
ON THE SUBJECT. I APPRECIATE YOUR RENEWED PLEDGE TO WORK
WITH ME TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS.

MOHAMMED ANWAR EL SADAT
UNQUOTE
EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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